

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/747,930

Q76665

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, amend the first full paragraph as follows:

~~This is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/443,299 filed on November 19, 1999.~~ This is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/747,930 filed December 27, 2000, which application was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/443,299 filed November 19, 1999, the disclosure of both previous applications being incorporated in full herein by reference.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/443,299 filed November 19, 1999 claimed priority from Japanese Applications Hei. 10-331026, filed November 20, 1998, Hei. 10-338015 filed November 27, 1998, Hei. 10-343079 filed December 2, 1998, Hei. 10-359068 filed December 17, 1998, and Hei. 11-086921 filed March 29, 1999. Further, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/747,930 filed December 27, 2000 also claimed priority from Japanese Application Hei. 11-371179 filed December 27, 1999.

Page 28, amend the fourth full paragraph as follows:

~~In Figs. 3 and 4, the elements which are identical with or correspond to those shown in Figs. 1 and 19 are assigned the same reference numerals, and repetition of their detailed explanations is omitted here for brevity.~~ In Fig. 3 and 4, the elements which are identified with or correspond to those shown in Fig. 1 and 2 are assigned the same reference numerals, and repetition of their detailed explanations is omitted here for brevity.